

# Rejoice!

December 2021/January 2022



**The Magazine of the  
West Norfolk Methodist Circuit**



## Hev You Got a Light?

We're thinking about darkness and light. Human nature is struggling to respond to the calling of God and rise from the darkness in which it finds itself. Darkness is self-seeking, hostile, destructive. 'Darkness is hostile to the light... but however hard the darkness tries, it cannot extinguish it. Sinning man [kind] loves the darkness and hates the light, because the light shows up too many things.' (William Barclay)

Darkness in human nature and behaviour is that which ultimately works towards the destruction of life. It comes in many forms: it could be greed, anger, or insult; it could be drug-taking or physical injury. It could lurk under the cover of ambition, pride or raking up the past.

Perhaps you remember the Singing Postman's immortal line, 'Hev yew got a light, boy?' (1965). The song referred to having a smoke but the question resonates far beyond that. It's a challenge: Is your light shining forth? **Which side are you on? Whose side?**

Do you recall that stirring hymn:

*Sing we the King who is coming to reign,  
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain;  
Life and salvation his empire shall bring,  
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King  
All men shall dwell in his marvellous light,  
Races long severed his love shall unite,  
Justice and truth from his sceptre shall spring,  
Wrong shall be ended when Jesus is King.*

Charles Silvester Horne (Original version)

It's a reminder of God's purpose in sending Christ Jesus: he comes to turn our darkness into light, so that we in turn may be people of light for the world. **Is your life, however humble, a source of light for others?** Or do you keep it hidden? Are others preventing you from shining?

In Matthew 5:14-16 we read: **'You are like light for the whole world.** A city on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a

*lamp and puts it under the bowl; instead it is put on the lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way **your light must shine** before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.'* (GNB)

Of course, there may be some particular reason why you aren't able to shine just at the moment. Circumstances may be against you. There may be a mountain in front of you; a whole range surrounding you, even. You may have been afflicted by a health problem or injury; you may have needed an operation. There's the pandemic brooding over the world and darkening the lives of so many, preventing communications, blocking aid convoys... **Take heart!** Mountains can move! Pray about it: *"Father, it seems to me that I have a light that could be shining. Perhaps the time isn't right, so give me patience. Nevertheless, I'm not giving up hope. If it's your will, this mountain can move."*

It may be the negative attitudes of others: they may consider you aren't the right kind of person, or that your lights aren't what they have firmly in mind. Let God be the one who decides. *"Father, you've put this light in my hands, and I have a firm belief that you want it to shine, bringing hope, encouragement and joy to others. I don't condemn those who are stopping me, but if they're getting in the way of your purpose, you can open their minds and change their hearts. May your will be done."*

Of course, it could also be the "one bag of silver" syndrome (Mt 25) that's getting in the way. *"They're all so much more talented than me... look at the abilities and qualities you gave them! And what have you given me? Nothing! Oh what's the use?"*

"Now then!" says God. "Just look at the skill and vitality you have in your hands, the power in your voice! Just you get up from that easy chair and start using what I gave you!"

*Jesus bids us shine,  
Then, for all around  
Many deeds of darkness*

*In this world are found—  
Sin, and want, and sorrow;  
So we must shine,  
You in your small corner  
And I in mine.*

Susan Warner

Yes, you do have a light. So let it shine. Shine for Jesus!

Thank you again David

### **Nativity by Christine Bell**

At last they found a Traveller's Rest  
Right on the edge of town.  
A one star bed and breakfast  
That frankly looked run down.

So Joseph knocked upon the door  
To ask if they were able,  
If all the rooms were taken now  
To settle in the stable.

Now where could Mary put the babe  
To keep him out of danger?  
With piles of dung across the floor  
The best place was the manger.

So this is the Nativity  
Let's celebrate this birth  
And thank the Lord at Christmas time  
For sending His Son to earth.

(Thanks to whoever sent this x years ago!)

# Praying together in the Circuit

We celebrate the birth of our Saviour  
and contemplate his coming again in glory.

This very day in David's town your Saviour was born  
Christ the Lord! Luke 2:11

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

It teaches us to say "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions,  
and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,  
while we wait for the blessed hope-the appearing of the glory  
of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Titus 2: 11-13

Redeeming God, we pray for your Holy Name to be honoured and  
worshipped in all the world, bringing glory to you.

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, we pray for peace on earth, and goodwill  
to all people, for justice and righteousness to prevail and peace to  
ensue, peace between nations, peace in our relationships, peace in our  
communities, neighbourhoods and streets.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, we pray for minds to be enlightened,  
eyes to be opened, hearts touched as the Holy Spirit reveals the truth  
of who you are.

Gracious God, we pray for worship songs and hymns which convey the  
Christmas message to resonate the wonder of your indescribable gift.

For familiar words of scripture to be alive and active bringing fresh  
glimpses of your love for the world in the giving of your Son. For  
children taking part in nativity scenes and families who watch, for it to  
be a special time for them, impacting their lives.

Lord, for those who have winter, but no Christmas, for those who  
celebrate Christmas, but do not know the real meaning, may this be  
the time when the meaning of Christmas which is life changing  
becomes a reality to them.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given and God imparts  
to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his  
coming,  
but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the  
dear Christ enters in. [Phillips Brooks 1835-1893]

God of time and eternity be with us as we come to the end of this  
year,  
and the beginning of a New Year committing ourselves, our church  
fellowships to you. Lord prepare us for the new things you have for us.  
May we go forward in faith - "To have faith is to be sure of the  
things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see". We  
believe with you all things are possible. Send us out in the power of  
your Holy Spirit. We want to be faithful, to be fruitful in loving and  
serving you, we long for people to know you and your touch upon their  
lives, meeting their deepest needs. Lord will you bless us that we may  
be a blessing to others.

God be merciful to us and bless us;  
look on us with kindness,  
so that the whole world may know your will;  
so that all nations may know your salvation.  
May the peoples praise you, O God:  
May all the peoples praise you !      Psalm 67: 1 - 3

Prayers have been requested for:

Derek + Viv, Stephanie, Margie, Janice, Trisha, Linda, Andrew,  
Mavis & Julia, Judy,, Kath, Stephen + Victoria, William, Tom, Sarah.

God's planet needs our prayers too as well as everyone affected by the  
pandemic, worried about vaccines, jobs and life in general

## Update on Climate Matters

### Giving Nature a Hand

One day in late September, I opened our front door and found a grass snake on our doorstep. Des had spotted its tail disappearing into the plants beside our drive a few days before but it was still a surprise to find it just outside our door. The snake soon slithered quickly away to find a more peaceful spot to bask in the sun.

Fast forward to November, when I had a parcel delivered from the RSPB and in it was a leaflet entitled, "Nature on your doorstep", which posed the question, "Did you know that one of the easiest ways to help wildlife is on your doorstep?" Perhaps the grass snake had been reading the leaflet!

The purpose of the leaflet was to tell people that even a small outdoor space, such as a balcony, patio or backyard can help provide food and shelter for wildlife. It pointed out that taken together UK gardens are almost three times bigger than all the RSPB's 200 plus nature reserves combined.



We have quite a large and varied garden but this is a photo taken from our sitting room of a very small paved area which acts as a mini wild life haven. The squirrel has come to drink from the mini pond and it is popular with the birds too. I sowed



some insect attracting seeds beside the paved area and there is some wheat sown by the birds growing too. Two fat ball holders are also "planted" amongst the flowers and attract a wide range of birds, even the shy thrush. There are some pots, which help to maintain a damp area for invertebrates and there is almost invariably a dunnock or two hopping around for food amongst them. Shelter from predators is provided by two bushes, which "sing" with sparrows at this time of year.

Getting back to the leaflet, it goes on to say that helping nature needn't be hard or expensive. It might involve allowing a little patch of to grow, keeping a shallow dish of water topped up with water or making a small wood pile. If you would like to find out about more ideas for helping nature, go to [rspb.org.uk/yourdoorstep](http://rspb.org.uk/yourdoorstep).

**Soft plastics** I was pleased to learn that our local Tesco supermarket now had a facility for collecting all kinds of soft plastics, including cling film and plastic pouches. There was even a whole page advert in the Telegraph announcing this change so I think this must be true of most, if not all Tesco stores and may well be offered by other supermarkets too. Remember that by taking lots of small steps, we can all play a part in restoring the natural balance of God's world.

Lesley Dent

Articles for February to me by JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup> 2022

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# A Politically Correct Christmas

~ Anon

Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...

How to live in a world that's politically correct?

His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",  
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.

And labour conditions at the North Pole,  
were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety,  
released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.

And equal employment had made it quite clear,  
that Santa had better not use just reindeer.

So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,  
were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his beautiful sleigh,  
because the ruts were deemed dangerous by the EPA,

And millions of people were calling the cops,  
when they heard sled noises upon their roof tops.

Second-hand smoke from his pipe, had his workers quite frightened,  
and his fur trimmed red suit was called "unenlightened".

To show you the strangeness of today's ebbs and flows,  
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.

He went to Geraldo, in front of the Nation,  
demanding millions in over-due workers' compensation.

So...half of the reindeer were gone, and his wife  
who suddenly said she'd had enough of this life,  
joined a self-help group, packed and left in a whiz,  
demanding from now on that her title was Ms.

And as for gifts...why, he'd never had the notion  
that making a choice could cause such commotion.

Nothing of leather, nothing of fur...

Which meant nothing for him or nothing for her.

Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot,  
Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise.

Nothing for just girls and nothing for just boys.  
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific,  
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.  
No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.  
Nothing that seemed to embellish upon the truth.  
And fairy tales...while not yet forbidden,  
were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden,  
for they raised the hackles of those psychological,  
who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.  
No baseball, no football...someone might get hurt,  
besides - playing sports exposed kids to dirt.  
Dolls were said to be sexist and should be passé.  
and Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.  
So Santa just stood there, dishevelled and perplexed,  
he just couldn't figure out what to do next?  
He tried to be merry he tried to be gay,  
but you must have to admit he was having a very bad day.  
His sack was quite empty, it was flat on the ground,  
nothing fully acceptable was anywhere to be found.  
Something special was needed, a gift that he might,  
give to us all, without angering the left or the right.  
A gift that would satisfy - with no indecision,  
each group of people in every religion.  
Every race, every hue,  
everyone, everywhere...even you!  
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...  
**"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on Earth."**

My son was obviously a good shepherd as he had the same part at  
playschool, nursery and Infant school!

## Bethlehem Quiz

You can look up some of the answers if you wish...but you may not find them all!

- 1 Who visited Bethlehem to anoint David as King of Israel?
- 2 Which prophet wrote 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you shall come...' (NIV)?
- 3 "Bethlehem" means
  - (a) house of sheep (b) house of stone (c) house of bread
- 4 Roughly how many miles is it from Nazareth to Bethlehem:
  - (a) 40 (b) 80 (c) 150?
- 5 Who was the Moabite woman who found her future husband in Bethlehem?
- 6 Why did Joseph take Mary to Bethlehem for the census?
- 7 Roughly how many miles is it from Jerusalem to Bethlehem?
  - (a) 6 (b) 20 (c) 50
- 8 Who wrote 'A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey...' ?
- 9 Who wrote the words of the hymn 'O little town of Bethlehem'?
  - (a) Charles Wesley (b) C.F.Alexander (c) Phillips Brooks
- 10 Who controls Bethlehem today: (a) the Israelis (b) the Palestinians  
(c) the United Nations?

Answers elsewhere in Rejoice. (No cheating!)

# Around the churches



## Stanhoe

We continue to meet on alternate Sundays for Morning Worship, despite no longer meeting with Burnham Market. We ourselves are such a small congregation that we decided that we should continue with the practice.

Two or three members from Burnham Market meet with us, but several are more or less housebound due to ill health, so for the time being, their church is out of action.

We have had a problem with musical accompaniments, as John Loose, our former organist, has not been able to come back after the pandemic lockdown, due to health issues. We are always pleased to see Colin, who with his wife, Moira Sleight, is one of our regular visitors, as he can play for us. Otherwise we manage with unaccompanied singing, or very amateur playing, melody only, from me. We have now ordered a set of discs and a midi-disc of StF music, but these are delayed as they are out of stock.

We had a very successful Harvest Festival Service in September, which was led by Rev. Dr Richman Ncube. Our congregation was considerably enlarged with a number of visitors, including a family of 9 people who were holidaying in the village. Although this made social distancing, which we were still vaguely practising, rather difficult, it was wonderful to have the church so full. As usual, Sushila Russell brought a wonderful display of flowers, jams and honey and vegetables from her smallholding, and these, together with contributions from other members and visitors, were sold off at the end of the service, with proceeds, enhanced from church funds, being divided between the King's Lynn Night Shelter and the Food bank.

We have restarted our Bible Studies on alternate Mondays, and each of us continues to pray at home on a daily basis for folk in special need, through the Stanhoe Prayer Chain.

We look forward to our Christmas Services, first, our Carol service, to be conducted by Rev. Rich, on 5th December at 11am as usual, and on

19<sup>th</sup> December, I shall be leading, "Morning Service with Christmas Carols". After that, we shall be closed for three weeks over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Elizabeth MacLeod

## Hilgay

Hilgay Methodist Church celebrated in style for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> we welcomed a good crowd to our Open Day where we displayed items of history relating to our Chapel including a preaching plan from 1878 when the Downham Market Circuit had 17 churches.

Other items on show were the Communion table and lectern, the Easter Cross made from bog oak which we fill with daffodils every year and stand outside as an Easter message to the village. Wrought iron flower stands which were made from parts of the old communion rail when renovations took place. A stained glass cross, a painting and our banner all made by members and friends of Hilgay Chapel.

There was also an opportunity to make Art and Craft items including bookmarks and a (S)octopus and a worksheet with facts about various items and people connected to the Chapel with gaps to fill in what information you could find by looking around you as people enjoyed tea, coffee cake and soup that were served during the day.

With the proceeds from a raffle and donations this day's events raised £308:55 for which we are very thankful.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October an Anniversary Service was led by Rev. Arthur Windridge, a former minister of this Circuit on two separate occasions. The organists were Mrs Meg Cooper and Thomas Burt. This service was attended by 33 people, which was about our limit at present with Covid restrictions. It was encouraging to see village people joining us as well as friends from around the Circuit. Thank you to our ministers Rev. Robert, Rev. Paul and Rev. and Mrs Richman Ncube for taking time to join us on one or other of these occasions. It was also lovely to have Rev. and Mrs Chris Bishop join us. After the service everyone enjoyed afternoon tea.

Future events we hope will include a Band Concert with Hilgay Silver Band, an inter-church quiz, Desert Island discs and coffee mornings to enable people to engage in fellowship with others after a difficult 18 months of Covid.

Pauline Driver

## Dersingham

We came home from church this morning through Sandringham and revelled in the golden leaves on the trees. It reminded me of my journey to school when we lived in Hertford. I could have gone down the A10 which would have taken 40 minutes because of the traffic, but I preferred to go the country way through wooded lanes and small villages which took half the time. One day the early morning sun was low and it shone through the frosty autumn leaves and made a magical golden sparkling tunnel through the woods which I have never forgotten. And what a wonderful thing memory is! I don't have to get out a photograph album or even find it on a camera as happens nowadays. No, I can, at any time, conjure up the memory in my mind and enjoy it all over again. We are indeed intricately and wonderfully made.

However the festive season is nearly upon us and at Dersingham we will be holding a Christmas Fair at our usual coffee morning time of 10am to 11.30am on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November. There will be the usual stalls of cards, cakes, books and a festive stall of Christmas gifts and decorations. Our tree in the church and the windowsills will be decorated on the 4<sup>th</sup> December and we will again be decorating a small tree in St. Nicholas Church for their Christmas tree festival. Our Candlelight Carol Service will be at 4pm on Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> and the collection at that service will be for Sightsavers. The Rev. Richman Ncube will lead the Christmas Eve service at 11.30pm and Philip and Elizabeth Batstone will take the Christmas morning service at the usual time of 10.30am.

The Covenant Service will be on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January and Richman will lead it. A coffee morning on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January will be in aid of expenses at the Flower Festival which we hope will take place in May after an absence of two years!

Rosemary Caink

## Pott Row

We continue to enjoy returning to some normality. Singing hymns was something we all missed, and we are glad to be able to all sing together again during our services. We have also returned to having coffee and tea after services, with biscuits and chatter. At the start of December the chapel will be open for our Christmas tree festival, and we are looking forward to seeing it all

decorated and cheerful. The church will be open from 10am - 4pm on Friday and Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and again on Sunday afternoon. Our carol service happens on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm.

Alison Dennis

## **Terrington St Clement**

Two members attended the carers' day" Lockdown "-care received and care given held at Downham Market. Coffee morning and knit and natter continue on Saturdays 10am -11.30am. We have a Christmas coffee morning with a display of Nativity scenes from 10am - 12 noon and the usual stalls but also sausage rolls and mince pies. That will be on Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup> .We would appreciate your support.

Network: MWiB held their meeting to commemorate Remembrance. Members recounted their experiences of war and how it affected them. Network meetings will continue monthly.

We had a poem by Wendy Murray;

On life's journey let's not stagnate like a dying tree. Moving forward, helping others is Community!

Share a smile and bring promise of God's love for all.

Lets' give hope to needy people.

Bring them something more; meaningful chocolate. Easter, Advent. Whatever it be prepare early.

Spread good news beyond you and me.

Help us follow- meet our calling. Like a blossomed tree.

Healing hearts and minds- together.

That's COMMUNITY.

Linda Howling

## **St Germans**

As we approach Advent, Christmas, and the end of 2021 I find myself looking back over a very strange year. A year of restrictions, inoculations, cancelled or virtual meetings, and shopping online. We have all needed to be very cautious about where we went and what we did along the way and we have been parted from several friends, often without the opportunity of celebrating their lives in a way that we would have wished. Despite all that and continued warnings that the pandemic will not just go away, there are signs things are beginning to take a turn for the better.

At Wimbotsham we have been able to restart our monthly coffee mornings which take place on the third Saturday of each month. We enjoy our coffee or tea with lovely home-made cakes and sausage rolls, whilst we can chat together or browse through tables loaded with books and bric-a-brac. The numbers attending so far have been somewhat lower than previously but



hopefully they will build up as people get used to going out again. All our friends from around the Circuit would be made very welcome between the hours of 10am and 12 noon.

We have also been able to recommence our Bible study sessions on alternate Tuesday mornings, our book club is meeting regularly again, and a new exercise class is meeting on our premises and already is at full capacity. So, life is returning to Wimbotsham Methodist Church.

Finally, I would like to join with all at Wimbotsham to wish you truly joyful Christmas and every blessing for the coming New Year.

John Houghton

## Feltwell



Our Nativity will be in the foyer of the Church from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Local people (and presumably any not local!) can take a photo of their children dressed as part of the scene.

## DECEMBER SEES A FEW CHANGES IN OUR PROGRAM

Local people living alone are being invited to this church family meal.

### **OLD CODGERS' NIGHT will move to Saturday 18 December as a Christmas party @6.30pm**

**Several kind local people have offered donations  
of food or drink to help with the celebrations.**

Of course, we all know that Christmas is a subversion of a pagan festival, namely Saturnalia. But who decided that the festivals like Saturnalia were to be labelled "pagan"? Certainly, when ancient cultures held their festival or feasts, they would have considered them legitimate celebrations of what they believed, usually planet gods or sun gods or gods of the harvest. Feasting and gift giving definitely predates the birth of Jesus Christ. In fact, the recognition of the birth of Jesus wasn't established until over 300 years after His death.

This then begs the question -

All those people who do not believe in Jesus..... what or who are they celebrating at this feast time? Do they know? Could this be a reversion to the pagan traditions pre-Christ? Is this a development of a 20<sup>th</sup> century festival with no religious basis, but simply an excuse to indulge in excessive eating, drinking and spending (or should we say the succumbing of our weak human desires to the powerful persuasion of advertising? Religious being merely a repetitive act. Or is there a subconscious acknowledgement that there is something about this guy Jesus which makes us think?

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### **Craft Group continues on MONDAYS – 2.00pm to 4.00pm**

.... A new era of craft with new members, new ideas and new challenges. The men are constructive and are helping make raised beds for vegetables, building equipment for groups to use and helping to make improvements to the premises and undertake minor repairs.

Plus we have refreshments. No membership fee!

No gender discrimination!

**6.00pm to 7.00pm – Maria's Exercise Group.... Is back!**

## **TUESDAYS**

**9.00am to 10.00am – Pilates** with Rantotsu Enterprises

## **WEDNESDAYS**

**10.00am to 12 noon – Community Garden & coffee**

We are following RHS guidance and have mown our meadow and planted clusters of foxgloves, cornflowers and more. We want to step up and expand community involvement and include a social aspect. Several local people benefit from the freshest local fruit and veg. We will be entering our gardens in the Anglia in Bloom 2022, hopefully along with the village.

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## **THURSDAYS**

**10.00am to 12 noon – Feltwellbeings....** See the program of activities in Feltwellbeings article in this magazine.

**6.00pm to 7.30pm – Brownies....** **Brownies** is about trying new things that teach **girls aged** seven to 10 about themselves, their community and their world. **Brownies** introduces girls to a world of new opportunities, challenges and fun.

## **SUNDAYS**

**10.45am to 12 noon – Fellowship and refreshments....** may include singing, praying, listening, discussing.

All our work can be found on our page of the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit website by scanning this QR code on your Android or iPhone.

We can be contacted on Facebook, Messenger or mobile 07712578721 or by email [mikegw15@gmail.com](mailto:mikegw15@gmail.com) Mike & Brigitte Wilkinson

## **ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION**

We have registered as an “Eco-Church” having taken the following measures to reduce our carbon footprint.

- Separating recyclable waste materials
- Operating a 3 yr composting cycle where garden waste, food waste, tea bags etc are composted. Even members bring their compostable waste to the church.
- Programmable electric heating system



- LED lighting
- Halved the amount of lawn we cut and leave half to wild flower growth and insect attraction.
- Grow our own fruit & veg and flowers.
- Recycling other people's waste, e.g coat-hangers, material, timber, Belfast sinks (to make raised beds), paving slabs.
- Encouraging drivers to switch off their engines after parking their cars.
- Encouraging drivers to reverse into and drive out of parking spaces as this conserves fuel.

Mike Wilkinson

## London Road

It is some time since London Road contributed an article but we hope that this will be the first of many.

As with all churches our community suffered by the isolation caused by Covid and some 12 months ago we decided as many of our congregation were not able to use zoom, or attend what services we were able to hold, that it would be a good idea to start a newsletter. The majority of these would be sent via email and the remainder by 'snailmail' either using Royal Mail or possibly slightly quicker by 'foot delivery'.

The concept was that the newsletter would contain information such as details of services, live or zoom, messages from our minister, and/or from the District Chair, articles from our contributors, either serious or less so and a quiz. We hoped, and I believe achieved, to create as near as possible the fellowship that we had all enjoyed following our Sunday services and lifting the spirits of everyone especially those living alone with only access to calls from friends by phone or emails. The feedback has been positive and constructive and we are continuing to issue the newsletter monthly.

I am not certain when and if things will ever return to what we regarded as normal but our congregation has been steadily returning and the groups that use our hall have in the main also returned although with diminished numbers. Sadly the exercise sessions with the Osteoporosis group have ceased but the Singing Your Heart Out, art, knitting and drama groups are back. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been able to use our premises for some time albeit with very strong protocols in place.

We had our first coffee morning in October as part of our Mission Weekend. It was very successful both from the monetary angle and just as important from the community spirit that the event promoted. It was delightful to see and hear people enjoying their teas or coffees and the cakes and scones which

were available. At the end of the day actual contact with others is the best form of communication and fellowship.

Our next coffee morning will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December from at 10 a.m. to noon in the church. We will have the usual stalls of bric- a-brac, books and home-made produce (looking forward to the cakes) and, as we are not having a formal carol service this year we will be having a carol-sing-along from about 11 a.m. Please join us if you are available that morning. All are welcome.

Jan McQuade

## **Downham Market**

Life goes on at Downham as more groups are restarting.

Ladies' Friendship enjoyed an evening of poetry, when we shared what we had found; some humorous and others serious. Messy Church explored Remembrance with wreathes, stained glass windows, and memory trees. Also the way life changes us and working together to build a tower from cocktail sticks and fruit pastels. Outside groups are starting as well. Our dedicated kitchen staff, led by Diane, is cooking for deliveries as well as meals on site. If you are in Downham and hungry come along for a main course at £5 and a dessert for £2.

## **Armistice Day – a touching moment**

11/11/21

I was out on a cycle ride when I noticed it was a couple of minutes to 11 o'clock. I decided to stop at the small memorial in Stoke Ferry for the two minutes silence. As I arrived I noticed a small group of children from All Saints Academy with their two teachers. After the two minutes silence the smallest little boy laid a wreath of poppies, then one by one they all laid small crosses. A little girl read out the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. It was a very moving few minutes for me. A very satisfying ride and one I won't forget in a hurry.

Margaret Pickston

## **Answers to Bethlehem Quiz**

1 Samuel

2 Micah

3 (c) House of Bread

4 (b) 80

5 Ruth

6 He 'belonged to the house and line of David'

7 (a) 6

8 T.S.Eliot

9 (c) Phillips Brooks

10 (b) the Palestinians

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## **Christmas gift Suggestions:**

To your enemy, forgiveness.  
To and opponent, tolerance.  
To a friend, your heart.  
To a customer, service.  
To all, charity.  
To every child, a good example.  
To yourself, respect.

Oren Arnold

An elderly woman walked into the church.  
The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her in. 'Where would you like to sit?' he asked politely.  
'The front row please.' She answered.  
'You really don't want to do that, the steward said.  
'The Pastor is really boring.'  
'Do you happen to know who I am?' the woman inquired.  
'No.' he said.  
'I'm the pastor's mother,' she replied indignantly.  
'Do you know who I am?' the usher asked  
'No' she said.  
'Good' the usher answered.

## **Love**

Love is a fruit in season at all times and within reach of every hand.  
Anyone may gather it and no limit is set.  
Everyone can reach this love through meditation,  
spirit of prayer and sacrifice, by and intense inner life.

## **The need for Love**

The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis,  
But rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and  
deserted by everybody.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

StF 59 It was very popular the year our daughter went to MAYC in London and we heard it sung by hundreds of teenagers!!

Cover the bottom half of the page before you try these questions!!!

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- 1 What did the first ever SMS text message, sent 3rd December 1992 read?
- 2 Which of Santa's reindeers is named after another animal?
- 3 How many points does a snowflake have?
- 4 Which Christmas song could make a child feel confused?
- 5 Which traditional foodstuff is illegal to eat on Christmas Day in England?
- 6 There are two Christmas Islands. Name the oceans in which they are located.
- 7 During Elizabethan times "humble pie" was popular at Christmas feasts. What was the main ingredient?
- 8 Who wrote the song "White Christmas" and in which year?
- 9 What were the names of the ghosts in "A Christmas Carol"?
- 10 How many days do we have between Christmas Day and Epiphany?

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS (1 ) Merry Christmas (Engineer Neil Papworth typed "Merry Christmas" on a computer and sent the first SMS message to the cellphone of Vodafone director Richard Jarvis.) (2 ) Vixen (a fox) (3 ) Six (4) I saw mummy kissing Santa Claus (5 ) Mince Pies (Oliver Cromwell brought in the law in the 17<sup>th</sup> century , and no one has bothered to repeal it. (6) Pacific and Indian (7) Innards or offal (usually of deer) (8 ) Irving Berlin in 1940 ( 9) Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come (10) 12 days

## Future dates

Subject to Robert's approval Rejoice will be reverting to 6 editions a year. These are the dates for copy.

January 15<sup>th</sup> for February/March

March 15<sup>th</sup> for April/May

May 15<sup>th</sup> for June/July/August

August 15<sup>th</sup> for September/October

October 15<sup>th</sup> for November

November 15<sup>th</sup> for December/January

As you should be able to see from this issue anything goes, to quote the song! Thank you to everyone who has sent something in this time. It makes for a much more interesting read.

A suggestion has been made that we have a favourite hymn section. There might be one this month, depends on space. Please send in the number and book of your favourite hymn and why.

## Interesting information from Sylvia

The Chinese New Year 2022 will fall on **Tuesday, February 1st, 2022**. We will finish the Year of the Ox. In Chinese culture, the Ox is a valued animal, because of its role in agriculture, positive characteristics, such as being hardworking and honest, are attributed to it.

The Chinese New Year animal sign will be the **Tiger**. Those born in a year of the Tiger are predicted to be brave, competitive, unpredictable, and confident.

There will be a public holiday from January 31 – February 6 in 2022, both from work and school. It is traditionally a period for family dinners and travel.

The Lantern Festival hopefully will be held on February 15th, 2022. It was cancelled in 2021 due to nine cases of covid 19 and the government advised mass events were to be avoided.



This photo shows the decorated canal in East District, Hsinchu, Taiwan.

Did you take the photo?



## WORSHIP?

Thoughts from Dudley Pickston

A possibly controversial statement first: “God does not demand or require our worship”

He is not like some celebrity performer who thrives on applause and adulation, or otherwise suffers acute depression. God is “the same yesterday, today and for ever” whether we worship him or not.

Jesus (so far as I know) never asked us to worship him- just to follow him – to try to be like him and follow his teaching.

Worship is a bit medieval; some people would worship the King or Queen, usually to obtain favours. God does not grant special favours to those who worship him.

That does not mean we should not worship God. Worship is for our own good, not God's. We need to acknowledge and appreciate what God is and what he has done.

When we are in church, we sometimes sing 'worship songs' – and so we should. However, when we are in church we don't just 'worship'. We give thanks, we ask forgiveness, we reflect on what it means to be a Christian. So we shouldn't just sing 'worship songs', but a range of hymns which make us think.

Perhaps 'worship' or 'service' is the wrong name for what we do in church. ('Service' is what we do in our daily lives.) I don't know what the right name would be. Any ideas?

Quotable quotes:

“Should've” only applies if we are likely to meet the same situation again.

You are free to do whatever you want. You need only face the consequences.

(Sheldon Kopp, Psychotherapist )

## Missing Vowels Quiz

Here are some Christmas carols or songs but there are no vowels or punctuation. What are they?

For example; GDKNGWNCSLS is Good King Wenceslas

WYNMNGR
NGLSFRMTHRLMSFGLRY
NCNRYLDVDSCTY
THFRSTNWLL
JNGLBLLS
WNTRWNDRLND
LTTLDNKY
CMLLYFTHFL
MRYSBYCHLD
THNGLGBRL
SNTCLSSCMNGTTWN
WHNSNTGTSTCKPTHCHMNY
HRKTHHRLDNGLSSNG
PSTTHRCLCK
CWBYCRL
THTWLVDYSFCHRSTMS
DCKTHHLLSWTHBWSFHLLY
THBRSHDCRL
THHLLYNDTHVY
LTTLTWNFBTHLHM

Get your books out to find the answers!!



## What's on from December 2021

Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup> Opening of Christmas Tree Festival 10-4 at Pott Row

Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> Final afternoon and Carol Service at 6pm at Pott Row

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 10am till noon London Road Christmas Fair with carols at 11 am.

Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> Carol Service at Dersingham 4pm

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 10 am to 12 noon Coffee Morning with bric a brac at Wimbothsham Methodist Church

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December Old codgers' Christmas party at Feltwell 6.30 pm

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 10 am to 12 noon Coffee Morning with bric a brac at Wimbotsham Methodist Church

Great to have a few diary dates!

A community lunch is held at Cornerstone Kings Lynn Baptist Church, Wisbech Rd., South Lynn, PE30 5JS on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The last one was 24<sup>th</sup> November. For £5 you get a hot 2 course meal and tea/coffee. Children are £3. All are welcome. Booking is advised on 01553 763015 and ask for Paula or leave a message on the answer machine. Many thanks, Paula Blowers, Café manager at Cornerstone Café.

Email: [Paula.blowers@sky.com](mailto:Paula.blowers@sky.com)